

Claims

1. A method of providing a stairlift installation on a staircase having a first step up from the floor from which said staircase extends, said stairlift installation having:
 - 5 a rail having a lower end and an upper end;
 - a carriage mounted on said rail for movement there-along;
 - a footrest mounted on said carriage for displacement with said carriage,
 - 10 said method being characterised in that the lower end of said rail is terminated substantially on said first step, and
 - said rail and said carriage are constructed and arranged to ensure that, when said carriage is at its lower most position on said rail, said footrest is positioned below the level of, said first step.
2. A stairlift for use on a staircase having a first step up from the floor from which said staircase extends, said stairlift including:
 - 15 a rail having a lower end and up upper end;
 - a carriage mounted on said rail for movement there-along;
 - a footrest mounted on said carriage for displacement therewith;

said stairlift being characterised in that the substantially the lower end of said rail is fixed to said first step, and

said rail and said carriage are constructed and arranged such that, when said carriage is at its lower most position on said rail, said footrest is positioned below the level of, said first step.

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3. A stairlift as claimed in claim 2 wherein said rail has a main section arranged at the angle of said stairway, and a lower section extending from said main section which is angled downwardly with respect to said main section.

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4. A stairlift as claimed in claim 3 wherein said lower section is substantially vertical.

5. A rail for use in the stairlift installation claimed in claim 2, said rail having a lower section and a main section and being characterised in that said lower section is arranged at an angle to said main section.

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6. A rail as claimed in claim 5 defined by a single longitudinal member.